

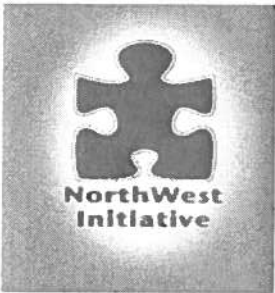


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HOUSE BILLS 5929 and 5930

Please accept the following comments to the stated bill. As a current grass roots Re-Entry program and a integral program of the Ingham County Community Corrections, who further provides programing for Swift and Sure Programming, we pray you will consider these issues.

House Bill 5929

It would be very helpful if you provide language that would mandate use of community corrections and instruct judges to order this instead of leaving it up to the probation officers discretion. As a member of the Ingham County Community Corrections Board, one of the major problems is getting probation officers to utilize these funds and programs. The legislation leaves too much discretion to the probation officers instead of mandating use as alternatives to prison and jail.

In this legislation we appreciate that you open up program eligibility "that will include "moderate to high risk offenders regardless of crime class of adjudication status", and feel it might be important to add "assaultive offenses" to insure that they will be part of the "crime class" that will be allowed to use Community Corrections programming.

This legislation changes the membership status for local community corrections boards by excluding the public members to the mandate of the board. For the past 6 years I have been a public member of the Community Corrections Board in Ingham County, and being a member has allowed me to change the direction of PA511 and make our community corrections accountable to the public. As a public member I serve the community that wants the streets safe and know what works best with the probation population. I worked to create a day reporting program in Ingham County, this program is unique in Michigan. This program provides the accountability to probation officers until probationers find employment as well as providing the social services (Preentry) and eliminating the barriers of those on probation. This crucial variable to the community corrections and Swift and Sure has expanded the success of this alternative to incarceration,. If I as a public member was not allowed to sit on the Corrections Advisory Board this program would not have been created. The input is invaluable to this board as you need outsiders sharing input as well as those that are part of the criminal justice program.

HOUSE BILL 5930

Thank you for your great efforts to clarify and expand the Swift and Sure legislation, however the key piece that is currently not addressed by SCAO and Swift and Sure is the funding to eliminate the barriers needed in the area of social services. In this legislation Sec 4, you address the purpose of probation...**TO EFFECTIVELY REHABILITATE OFFENDERS BY DIRECTING THEM TO SPECIALIZED TREATMENT OR EDUCATION, AND TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC SAFETY.** The key to successful rehabilitation is eliminating the barriers that brought the client to the Criminal Justice system in the first place. It is crucial that you address the elimination of barriers that clients face such as ID, Driver's License, employment, resume, food stamps, affordable health care, i.e; wrap around services/social services. The key to successful probation is providing those key services for clients, and it is not mentioned in this legislation. As a SSSPP program that is providing these services for clients, the success of these clients has been because we provide those services in a one stop shop but it is NOT Included in this bill.

Through community engagement and mobilization, NWI advances the development of healthy, vibrant communities by building capacity to identify needs and formulate strategies to create change.